

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-9 are presently active in this case, Claim 1 having been amended, Claim 2 having been canceled and Claims 3-9 having been added by way of the present Amendment.

In the outstanding Official Action, the drawings were objected to for minor informalities. Submitted concurrently herewith is a Letter Requesting Approval of Drawing Changes which includes amendments in red ink to Figures 9 and 10 to address the objections by adding the legend "Related Art." Accordingly, the Applicants request the withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

Figure 1 has been amended to correct several incorrectly labeled features. Support for these amendment can be found in Figure 3 and in the written description of Figures 1 and 3.

Claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1 and 2 were rejected as being generally narrative and indefinite, and for failing to conform with current U.S. practice. Claim 1 has been amended to address the indefiniteness rejection raised in the Official Action, and Claim 2 has been canceled. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejection.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 9-33138, Nozawa (U.S. Patent No. 4,621,685), Murayama (U.S. Patent No. 4,809,518), Aikawa et al. (U.S. 5,680,773), Torigoe et al. (U.S. 5,701,760), Kajikawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,735,343), and Aikawa (U.S. Patent No. 5,906,237). For the reasons discussed below, the Applicant traverses the anticipatory rejection.

Claim 1 of the present application recites a two-block heat exchanger comprising a plurality of refrigerant distribution parts including two overlapped plates that define refrigerant paths inside. The plurality of refrigerant distribution parts are alternatively layered with a refrigerant fin. The heat exchanger includes openings that open into the refrigerant paths are formed respectively in each of the two plates, and continuous refrigerant circulation spaces that are formed by abutting the openings of adjacent refrigerant distribution parts. Each of the continuous refrigerant circulation spaces is connected to an end of a respective refrigerant path, and each of the refrigerant circulating spaces has a closed end and an open end. The open end of a first refrigerant circulation space that is connected to a first refrigerant path is connected to the open end of a second refrigerant circulation space that is connected to a second refrigerant path. At least one refrigerant circulation space includes a refrigerant distribution means that controls an amount of refrigerant supplied to the respective refrigerant path.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references do not disclose all of the limitations recited in Claim 1 of the present application. For example, the Applicants submit that the JP 9-33138, Nozawa, Murayama, Aikawa et al., Kajikawa et al., and Aikawa

references do not disclose a heat exchanger wherein each of the continuous refrigerant circulation spaces is connected to an end of a respective refrigerant path, and each of the refrigerant circulating spaces has a closed end and an open end. Each of the devices described in these references either has circulation spaces connected to refrigerant paths, in which at least one circulation space has either two closed ends or two open ends. By way of example, the JP 9-33138 reference depicts a device having a space along line 22b that is open at the inlet end (8) and open at the opposite end (notice that the flow continues along path 38 to another space). The presently claimed invention is distinguishable over such devices.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the anticipation rejections based upon the JP 9-33138, Nozawa, Murayama, Aikawa et al., Kajikawa et al., and Aikawa references.

Furthermore, the Applicants submit that the Torigoe et al. reference does not disclose a heat exchanger comprising at least one refrigerant circulation space that includes a refrigerant distribution means that controls an amount of refrigerant supplied to the respective refrigerant path. The Torigoe et al. reference does not disclose any structure in a refrigerant circulation space that is the same as or equivalent to the disclosed distribution means of the present application.

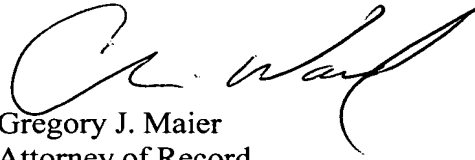
Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the anticipation rejection based upon the Torigoe et al. reference.

Newly added Claims 3-9 are considered allowable as they recite features of the invention that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the references of record.

Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Once Amended) A two-block heat exchanger [being a two-block heat exchanger formed by] comprising a [plate shaped] plurality of refrigerant distribution [part having overlapped] parts including two overlapped plates [that have been drawing processed and providing a] that define refrigerant [path] paths inside, said plurality of refrigerant distribution parts are alternatively layered with a refrigerant fin, openings that open into said refrigerant paths are formed respectively in each of said two plates, and [a] continuous refrigerant circulation [space] spaces are formed by abutting the openings of [the] adjacent refrigerant distribution [part that are layered] parts, wherein:

[said refrigerant distribution part provides two separate refrigerant paths through which the refrigerant flows and said openings provided at both respective ends of these refrigerant paths] each of said continuous refrigerant circulation spaces is connected to an end of a respective refrigerant path; [and]

[one end of] each of said refrigerant circulating spaces [is] has a closed end [that is closed off] and [the other end is] an open end [that is opened], and [among said two refrigerant paths,] the open end of [said] a first refrigerant circulation space [formed by the one open part of the one] that is connected to a first refrigerant path is connected to the open end of [said] a second refrigerant circulation space [formed by the one open part of the other] that is connected to a second refrigerant path; and

wherein at least one refrigerant circulation space includes a refrigerant distribution means that controls an amount of refrigerant supplied to said respective refrigerant path.

2. (Cancel)
3. (New)
4. (New)
5. (New)
6. (New)
7. (New)
8. (New)
9. (New)